



REAL MAN conference exposes the myths of manhood and addresses the full range of a man's life - marriage, finances, friendships, success, failure, parenting and spirituality. Jesus Christ overcomes substitute manliness and sets the standard for real manhood to help men be real. Discover the true model for manhood that is infallible, functional, and yet feasible - the manhood of Christlikeness!



Based on the book: **Real Man**, by Edwin Louis Cole, 1992 (ISBN 978-1-931682-12-1)

Edwin Louis Cole (1922-2002), also known as Ed Cole, was the founder of the Christian Men's Network (CMN), an American religious organization devoted to helping Christian men and fathers. Ed Cole, often referred to as "The Father of the Christian Men's Movement" established a heritage that continues to influence generations, launched from a mission statement that propelled his life and ministry:

"I have been called to speak with a prophetic voice to the men of this generation and commissioned with a ministry majoring in men to declare a standard for manhood, and that standard is that 'Manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous.'"

A prolific author, his classic "Maximized Manhood" is among the most widely read book for men in the world. The CMN (<https://cmn.men/>) he founded continues the vision to
BUILD MEN, BUILD CHURCHES, TRANSFORM CULTURE.

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"Manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous." -Ed Cole



AGENDA

We will have 4 sessions.

Each 1-hour session will have about 30mins of teaching, and 30mins of group discussions in round tables, and online (Zoom) breakout groups, and close with time of prayer.

9:30-10am Worship

10am-11am Session 1: **REAL MANHOOD** - The masculinity maze and true manhood

11am-11:30am Break (Tea/snacks)

11:30-12:30pm Session 2: **REAL ISSUES** - Matters of values, priorities, and character

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2pm Worship

2pm-3:00pm Session 3: **REAL SUCCESS** - Winning, accomplishments, greatness, and then what?

3:00pm-3:30pm Break (Tea/snacks)

3:30pm-5pm Session 4: **REAL MAN** - The forgotten roles of husband, father, friend, and disciple

Close with Discussions/sharing/praying.



SESSION 1 REAL MANHOOD

The masculinity maze and true manhood

Saul stood head and shoulders above all.
But Saul could not follow through with obedience.

A current crisis in manhood.
A crisis in leadership, that stems from a crisis in manhood.

Manhood has been emasculated, sterilized, and neutralized.

a fatalistic approach to life - nothing to look forward to.
admire mafia and terrorist groups.
fatherless generation.
"macho male" mentality breakdown of families.
men flagrantly brutalizing women.
perversion of sexuality leading to homosexuality.
rise of feminism, replacing gender specific terms with neuter terms.
gay rights parading against heterosexuality or being straight.
lack of manliness, "wimpiness", just following the crowd.
media portrayal of manhood - movies, entertainment, books, magazines, etc.
workplace demands on men.

Perceptions of manhood, gleaned from society's role models—both good and bad—motivate men in behaviors that are both positive and negative. These society-dictated perceptions distort true manhood and create confusion.

Men are confused about manhood. What is a real man? Whom or what should we model after?

The Olive, Fig, Vine, and Bramble
Judges 9:1-15

Luke 6:44

For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.



QUALITY MANHOOD

Real manhood cannot be found in just a moment's emotional outburst. Neither is real manhood found in the image of physical prowess and handsomeness. Nor in personality, talent, intelligence, performance, or profession.

Real manhood is found within the heart of a man, the "inner man," his moral character, the "real man" that exudes beyond all external devices for the rest of the world to see.

The quality of the inner man makes a man "real."

The quality of the product depends on the quality of the material used.

The cheaper the merchandise, the higher the gloss.

Quality is always internal, not external.

Every man is limited in life by three things:

- (1) the knowledge of his own mind
- (2) the worth of his own character
- (3) the principles upon which he builds his own life

The truth is, whatever a man is in private—what he believes, practices and has built into his character—determines the actions and decisions he makes in public.

Private philosophy determines public performance.

When the charm wears off, you have nothing but character left.

Charm is for the instant, character is constant.

Fame can come in a moment, but greatness comes with longevity.

REAL MANHOOD IS CHRISTLIKE MANHOOD

In the case of male identity and role, the answer is found in God as He revealed Himself on earth in the manhood of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,....



Philippians 2:7-8

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, ...

John 19:5

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Through Jesus, God showed us by example how to live as real men here on earth. God revealed to us in physical form what He had already said that He created man in His image and for His purposes. Consequently, the essence of real manhood is found not in how a man looks or in what a man does but in who a man is.

Jesus, the only Man Who ever lived exactly as God had created Him to live.

Ephesians 4:13,15

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous.

Jesus Christ was the most virile and vital of men. Rather than the soft, spineless, wimpish, docile man so often painted in word and picture, He was a man's man.

Jesus knew Who He was, what He was about and what He was to accomplish.

Jesus taught that a man is only qualified to lead to the degree he is willing to serve. Anonymity is the essence of humility.

Noble yet humble, dignified yet unassuming, gracious yet indignant at injustice, tender yet tough, holy yet human, confrontational yet compassionate, truthful yet understanding and filled with wisdom, Jesus exemplified all that is best in humanity. He is the epitome of real manhood.

There is no greater joy or fulfillment for any man than to be brought up to the level of Christlike manhood—"real" manhood.



YOUR ACTION ITEMS

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

#1, In your current circle, as a student, working professional, etc., how is masculinity portrayed? What does a 'real man' look like, as portrayed by the world? How has the view of masculinity been blurred?

#2, What are the qualities that describe "Christlikeness"? Are these normally associated with 'manhood' and 'masculinity' in the world today?

#3, As believing men, how do we practically conform to "Christlikeness" as our standard for manhood in everyday life?

Pray together:

Father, in Jesus' Name, I know that I, come from a weakened state of manhood, and I need to be filled with Your power and strength. I admit my failures in following society, and I commit myself today to live as a Christlike man. I surrender myself to your working in me to make me the man I ought to be, a Christlike man. Thank You for receiving me and my manhood. Amen.



SESSION 2 REAL ISSUES

Matters of values, priorities, and character

IMAGE AND REALITY

Today, reality doesn't seem to matter. Image, however, does.
Image is big business. Right or wrong, image works!
The results are a fabricated man not a real man.

Society has substituted relativism for absolutes and has perverted our values.

Many of those caught up in our substitute society claim that bad is good and good is bad, deceiving themselves into living a lie rather than embracing truth.

Society wants God to conform to their lifestyle rather than make their lifestyle conform to God's Word.

As real men we must seek to live on a higher level without compromise and stand with truth and reality.

Every man has three identities to deal with:

- (1) the man he wants others to think he is
- (2) the man he thinks he is
- (3) the man he really is

The degree to which these three coincide determines the depth of real manhood and the amount of **peace in one's life.**

1 Corinthians 5:11

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

We can cover our nature by projecting an image we want others to believe, or we can have our nature changed by identifying ourselves with the person of Jesus Christ.

When a false image becomes an idol, men are held in bondage by false images that overcome them. Such images form the basis for idolatry in life.



VALUES

When God created us in His own image, He endowed us with five powerful characteristics:

- (1) Capacity to know the truth
- (2) Ability to recognize moral excellence
- (3) Power to exercise our will
- (4) Creative power in our words
- (5) Right and ability to reproduce

For the Christlike man, these attributes aid in stewarding earth and family, to fulfill God's will, accomplish His purposes and glorify Him.

MORAL PRINCIPLES AND MORAL COURAGE

Kind David, Success, failure, repentance

Daniel held his values even at the expense of his life.

The three differences between preference and conviction are:

- (1) People who live by preference can be negotiated out of their preferences. Convictions are nonnegotiable.
- (2) People who live by preference weaken under pressure. Convictions grow stronger.
- (3) People who live by preference always dislike those who hold convictions.

Jesus lived by His convictions, not men's preferences.

Men who live by conviction are "strong." Men who live by convenience are "weak." Don't let convictions yield to convenience.

Moral cowardice causes men to shrink from duty and danger, to dread pain and to yield to fear – 1 Samuel 15:24.

The fear of man is a form of moral cowardice – Proverbs 29:25.

Moral cowardice is the ruin of manhood – Numbers 13:33.

LIFE'S VALUE SYSTEMS AND PRIORITIES

Learn these points in life's value systems and priorities.

First: Some things are more important than life itself.

Shadrach, Mesach, Abednego - They refused to negotiate when confronted with the choice to worship the king or burn in a fiery furnace. Instead, they grew stronger and incurred the wrath of those who lived by preference. Their standing could be better seen when all others were bowing. Daniel stood by his conviction even when confronted by a den of lions.

Standing by their convictions gave God the opportunity to show Himself strong on their behalf.



Second: The intangible is more important than the tangible.

The internal is more important than the external; the unseen more important than the seen; and the spirit more important than the body.

Respect is an intangible that is more important than the tangible.

Third: Money clarifies your values.

We tend to invest our money in the things we value the most.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A man reveals the condition of his heart by his attitude toward money.

The use of money is the acid test of character in a real man.

The real man doesn't rely on riches but on God.

By our giving, we gain something that is impossible to gain any other way.

Fourth: Whoever dictates your values becomes your god. Who is your god?

Fifth: Individual rights cannot exceed the corporate good.

The value of the whole exceeds the value of the one.

Sixth: Fathers provide the family's value system.

A father's responsibility is not to make his son's decisions but to let his son see him make his.

The Biblical pattern for the discipling of the family is this: The pastor disciples the man and the man disciples the family.

Seventh: Values can be held, then discarded.

Eighth: Everything in life has value. Actual, perceived, accrued.

Time has intrinsic value. Time wasted is lost. Time spent is gone. Time invested is multiplied.

Influence has value. Every man has influence. How you use it determines its value. Using influence is wise. Selling it can be a criminal act.

There is even value in failure. Never throw away your failures. Use them as the underpinning for right decisions today and tomorrow.



To become a real man is to have real values.

VALUES, PRIORITIES, CHARACTER

Esau - sold his birthright for temporary relief.

Joseph - stood by his values and principles and demonstrated character.

You build character as you would an altar or building. Block upon block, decision upon decision, line upon line, little upon little.

God commits to character, not talent. Faithfulness is the cornerstone of character. Faithfulness is demonstrated by constancy, loyalty and submission.

When truth is discovered, its reality brings change.

A half-truth is a whole lie.

No lie will ever serve the purposes of God. Nothing built on a lie will stand.

YOUR ACTION ITEMS

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

#1, In general, what are the values and priorities held by the people you meet around you? In contrast, what are Biblical values and priorities we are called to hold, as believing men?

#2, When there is a "clash of two worlds", a conflict of values and priorities, in daily life situations (e.g. at school, college, workplace, etc.) how do we live by Biblical values and priorities without compromise?

#3, In a world where success, money, fame, etc. are valued more than an individuals character, how do we as believing men, keep our focus on maintaining godly character?

Pray together:

Father God, regardless of what others do, I choose to be a man of conviction, not preference—the right man, at the right time, in the right place. I choose to pursue godly values, live by godly priorities and develop godly character. I embrace the call to pursue Christlikeness in all things. Amen.



SESSION 3 REAL SUCCESS

Winning, accomplishments, greatness, and then what?

WINNING, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GREATNESS...WHAT NEXT?

King Solomon

LOVE AND LUST

Love is the desire to benefit others even at the expense of self because love desires to give.
Lust is the desire to benefit self at the expense of others because lust desires to get.

We must overcome the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-16).

Pleasing self is the pleasure principle of a lustful life.
Pleasing God is the pleasure principle upon which godly life rests.

All sin promises to please and serve but only intends to enslave and dominate.

Choices determine destiny. Everything in life is under our power of choice, but once the choice is made, we become the servant to the choice.

God didn't model man from a monkey, but men make monkeys out of themselves.

LIVING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The fear of the Lord is the restraint from doing evil.

The high places in men's minds are secret thoughts.

Overcoming lust through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Money has no morality. It is amoral. Money's only morality or immorality is in the heart of the holder.

SERVING

Maturity does not come with age but begins with the acceptance of responsibility. True maturity and greatness in manhood begins with the acceptance of responsibility.



True greatness is expressed through the acceptance of the responsibility to serve. Serving is not trying to compensate for what others didn't do. Serving involves meeting others' needs, through love, which is an expression of selflessness.

Jesus accepted the responsibility of serving.

Jesus came not to be ministered to but to minister. Real men hold that same attitude. The more he serves, the greater he becomes.

Matthew 20:25-28

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

John 13:14-16

14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Greatness comes through serving. The more you serve, the greater you become.

Fame and greatness are not synonymous.

Start where you are, not where you want to be.

Inactivity produces nothing.

The Christlike don't discover their ministry gifts by sitting around analyzing someone else's teaching. Gifts become manifest in the process of ministering to others.

Men cannot allow wisdom, experience, and knowledge to die with them.



DEATH, RESURRECTION, FRUITFULNESS

John 12:24-26

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Death and resurrection go together. The cross and the empty tomb are incomplete without one another.

The real secret of success is not in the living, it's in the dying to self.

Marriage is successful because each partner dies a little to him or herself to make the marriage successful.

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

Seek Greater Riches. Seek The Kingdom. Seek The Eternal.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Moses

Hebrews 11:24-26

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Seeking the eternal first causes the temporal to follow. Seeking first the temporal misses the eternal. The eternal is always more important than the temporal.

Investing your energy, ingenuity, initiative, ability and creativity in the Kingdom of God is wisdom, not waste. Giving to God is never a waste.

God is worthy of our very best, and He requires it. Giving your best to God is not a waste—it is a glory!

Stewardship. We do not own what we possess. We hold our possessions only for a season.



We're called to be good stewards of what we have, whether it be our minds or bodies, our time, talents or dreams, our friendships or marriages.

Time constraints overwhelm all of us. Men who compromise with time are "lazy." Men who conquer time are "productive."

PLEASE GOD

Galatians 1:10

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

God was not just pleased in Jesus as deity, but God was pleased in the manhood that Jesus Christ displayed.

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

The man who seeks to please God is most likely to have people pleased with him. The closer a man is to God, the more a man of the people he becomes.

There is a place in God, where God is your Portion. He is all you need.

There is a place of rest in God. It overcomes anxiety.

There is a place of contentment in God. It overcomes greed.

There is a place of fulfillment in God. It overcomes searching.

There is a place of peace in God. It overcomes strife.

There is a place of security in God. It overcomes insecurity.

There is a place of living in God and being dead to self. It overcomes pride.

To walk in God's will for our lives, as real men, secure in our manhood and our relationship with Him, is our highest good. Our highest good gives God pleasure.

YOUR ACTION ITEMS

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,



TABLE DISCUSSIONS

#1, While success and achievements are good, beyond success, are these greater callings:

- Resisting lusts
- Living in the fear of the Lord
- Serving God and people selflessly
- Dying to self for a resurrection of fruitfulness
- Seeking first the Kingdom
- Pleasing God above all others

How do we as believing men, maintain these virtues in our lives while we journey in life achieving, being successful, pursuing accomplishments, and more?

Pray together:

Father, I long to seek Your Kingdom first and trust that everything else in life will be added to that. As I work, let money follow. As I pray, let production follow. Help me to say "no" to temptations of all kinds so I can say "yes" to You. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.



SESSION 4 REAL MAN

The forgotten roles of husband, father, friend, and disciple

FOUR ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO LIFE

There are four principles essential to life that every man needs to understand:

- (1) Communication is the basis of life. When communication stops, abnormality sets in, and the ultimate abnormality is death.
- (2) Agreement is the power of life. Agreement is the power of life because, without it, both authority and ability would be lost.
- (3) Exchange is the process of life. Exchange takes place through crisis, and crisis is normal to life. Each step of maturity generally occurs through some crisis.
- (4) Balance is the key to life.

THREE COMPETENCIES

Manhood is based on being competent in three things: the ability to guide, guard, and govern.

Being a man in almost every culture means being ready to direct, protect and correct. The three elements stem from God's instruction to Adam to guide, guard and govern. This translates into: nourish, cherish, admonish. This requires being the: visionary, administrator, ruler. To be: prophet, priest, king.

GUIDE, DIRECT, NOURISH, VISIONARY, PROPHET

"Real men" are those who give more than they take, who serve others by being brave and protective. Real men do nurture.

A man must first possess what he desires to give. Otherwise, his desire will go unfulfilled.

The visionary is the force behind the vision. A vision cannot survive on its own.

GUARD, PROTECT, CHERISH, ADMINISTRATOR, PRIEST

GOVERN, CORRECT, ADMONISH, RULER, KING.



When a man accepts that assignment from God, the family structure falls into place. When he doesn't, the result is a family out of order and even out of control.

The more like Jesus he becomes, the more of a gentleman he will be. Real men are gentlemen. Gentlemen make real marriages.

The real man values his stature with his family more than the regard of his peers.

HUSBAND

Pray for and with your wife. Prayer produces intimacy. It draws you closer to God and to each other.

Serve your wife by being there to nourish, cherish and admonish.

FATHER

It is not the father's responsibility to make all his children's decisions for them but to let them see him make his.

Children may not always listen to you, but they will always imitate you.

The legacy of fathers is in their children.

As prophet, the father speaks from God to guide his children. As priest, he speaks for his children to God to guard them. As king, he governs, qualifying himself to lead by his willingness to serve them.

A real man as father must give his children acceptance, approval, affection, association and a sense of authority.

FRIEND

Faithful friends are life's greatest treasure. Being a true friend is one of the marks of a real man.

Friendship, not romance, holds a marriage together.

Life's greatest commodity is not money but friends.

SUBSTITUTES VERSUS ORIGINALS

We try to substitute money for affection. Easier to give your wife some money than to love and show her affection.



We try to substitute things for time. Easier to give children some toys than spend quality time with them.

In the church we try to substitute many things:

Talent for anointing.

Remorse for repentance.

Traditions for commandments.

Respectability for righteousness.

Passion for obedience.

Status symbols for relationships.

Real men understand that substitutes are not originals.

DISCIPLE

Matthew 10:24-25

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

First and foremost, every real man establishes his relationship to God.

If God wants to bring His message to a police station, hospital or construction site and you are there—**you become God's revelation to those people.**

Disciples are disciplined. Victory requires ruthlessness in discipline and willingness to fight until the battle is over and the victory is won.

REPENTANCE

Real men are not perfect. We strive for the ideal but live the real. When we sin and face the truth, repentance is the way to rightness before God.

It takes a man to admit he's wrong.

We need courage to face reality, admit need, confess wrong, change, make decisions and hold convictions.



YOUR ACTION ITEMS

- 1,
- 2,
- 3,

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

#1, Share what God has done in your life through this day. What are your key learning/takeaways and action items (what you will work on).

Pray together:

Dear God, I am a man. I want to be a real man. So those things in my life that are wrong, where I have made mistakes, committed errors and sins, forgive me. I want them out of my life. Right now I ask you to touch my life by Your Spirit and change me. Make me to be the man You created me to be through Jesus Christ. Thank You, Lord.

Father, thank You for giving me, today, another day to prove myself as a real man according to Your principles. I put away foolish, earthly wisdom, and I accept responsibility for my actions in order to mature in Christ. Please help me find true wisdom and give me the strategy I need for victory.

Father, in so many ways, I've done wrong for my own children and for the young people of the next generation. I acknowledge my errors, repent today, and ask You, Lord, to help me do right from now on. Please make me, in both word and deed, an example of true manhood and a leader of the young.

Thank you for making me a man, for giving me my manhood and calling me to be Christlike! Please help me be a real man! In Jesus name. Amen.